

<b>Transferability and Student Data</b>		<b>Agency/Program #:</b> 5102-01-I1
		<b>Division:</b>
		<b>Program:</b> OCHE Administration
<b>Agency Name:</b>	Montana University System/Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	
<b>Agency Contact:</b>	Tyler Trevor, Associate Commissioner of Higher Education	444-0307
<b>LFC Contact:</b>	Senator Dave Wanzonried	
<b>LFD Liaison:</b>	Alan Peura, Fiscal Analyst II	444-5387
<b>OBPP Liaison:</b>	Suzan Scott, Budget Analyst	444-4895

**Program or Project Description:**

To improve the transferability of student credits/coursework between the campuses of the Montana University System (including the community colleges).

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source				
Fund Name:	2008		2009	
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended
General Fund	1,291,099	59,370	253,901	
State Special				
Federal Funds				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,291,099</b>	<b>\$59,370</b>	<b>\$253,901</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of October 31, 2007

**Goal(s):**

That retention rates and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses and transferred in coursework from other institutions are at the same level as retention and completion rates for students that have not transferred.

**Performance Measures :**

Create 11 faculty councils.  
 Create transfer pathways in 11 different program/subject areas.  
 That the number of pre and postsecondary education credits accepted for transfer by the MUS has increased by 15% over 2007 baseline (including but not limited to dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, and tech prep).  
 That the number of student appeals of credit transfer decisions is reduced below the prior year rate toward a total reduction of 50% by 2009-2010. Proposed new performance measures for FY 2008 (alternate wording)

1. Create at least 11 faculty councils, each of which will develop transfer pathways in its subject area
2. Create electronic MUS website forum for cost-effective implementation of council deliberations on course-transfer
3. Develop as transfer pathways (above) a system of common-course identifiers for all courses reviewed by faculty councils
4. Apply common-course identification (prefix, number, title, credits) to all courses judged by faculty councils to be equivalent
5. Develop, test, and refine computerized student transfer program with Web interface.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:		Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	Hiring of 2.5 FTE (Director of Transferability, Computer Programmer, and Computer Support Specialist).	July 2007	July 2007
	Identify 11 faculty councils	Sept 2007	Sept 2007
2	Approve Board of Regents policy mandating Common Course Numbering	Nov 2007	Nov 2007
3	Centralized, web-based computer program developed to demonstrate transferability of courses throughout the MUS	Sept 2008	
4	Undergraduate courses in 11 disciplines will be common course numbered	Sept 2008	
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**Performance Report:**

By September 2007, 11 faculty discipline-based councils were identified. The first four councils met on November 9 in Helena to launch their work. The next four will be launched in mid January. Initial cost estimates did not anticipate participation of tribal college, private college, and high school faculty, yet all three entities were invited to participate, with 6 of 7 tribal colleges being represented. The meeting totaled 70 participants, and of the four councils, one reached near unanimity during the course of the day.

A discussion forum at the MUS website has been created for each council to continue its conversations while they're apart, reducing the travel cost and time for further face-to-face meetings--hopefully to only two or three more beyond the first one.

Existing campus-based transfer agreements have been collated into a single master database that provides one basis for selecting which councils to put to work in which order. A preliminary web-based interface has been developed to help users learn what courses transfer where and how (as general education credits, as program requirement, or as electives).

**LFD Narrative:****Executive Changes:**

1. No changes to Goals/Initiatives
2. No changes to Performance Measures

**LFD Assessment:**

1. Yes, goals are measurable within the bienium
2. Progress toward goal: Best Practices - by approving "common course numbering" process, the Board of Regents have provided a clear, measureable end-point horizon and process for this transferability initiative

**Appropriation Comments:**

1. Yes, appropriation/expenditures provided
2. No appropriation issues

**Options regarding goal/initiative and performance measures:**

1. On track - Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget subcommittee (PEPB) will continue to work with the university system to refine the measures for transferability as computerized system and data gathering capacity continues to improve.



Version	Date	Author
EO - 1	11/29/07	Peura

Change Description
Initial completion of form (updated LFD Narrative 12/04/2007).